

they so much in the pocket of the Washington Teachers Union that they are willing to sacrifice America's children to educational mediocrity.

As a public school graduate and the son and brother of teachers, I am appalled by this out-of-touch, deny-reality approach to education. Just because Washington bureaucrats do not want to improve public education does not mean that Congress should be afraid to tackle the job.

□ 1030

Since my graduation from high school, SAT scores have fallen. Tests on an international basis show that Americans are behind German, Japanese, and British children, and private schools and charter schools are flourishing in popularity.

Why? Because of local control. Because of less Washington bureaucrats. Not because of Washington redtape and all the status quo things that the Democrat Party seems so content to keep piling on, and piling on, on the teacher and her classroom.

I say let us improve public education. Let us start by returning dollars not to the Washington bureaucracy but to the teacher in the classroom.

#### SUPPORT H.R. 2649 OR H.R. 2650 TO END LINE-ITEM VETO

(Mr. SKAGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKAGGS. Madam Speaker, I think there was an interesting experience yesterday in the hearings before the Committee on National Security as we watched the worm turn. I noted with some sense of irony the protests that were being made about the President's recent exercise of the line-item veto, a power given to him by most of those who were protesting its exercise.

The fears that we had that this would be an invitation to an abuse of power are being borne out. It is unconstitutional. It is bad public policy.

Who do we have to blame? Ourselves.

How do we undo it? Let us start here with a better approach: Expedited rescissions, giving the President the power to flag wasteful items, but then we have to vote and vote promptly.

We have a measure for every taste. If my colleagues would like to repeal the line-item veto and replace it with expedited rescissions, H.R. 2649.

If we are purists and want to completely repeal the line-item veto, a completely defensible point of view as well, H.R. 2650.

#### BIG HAT, NO CATTLE

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, we know that the President and other politicians talk an awful lot

about education reform but, unfortunately, that is about as far as it gets. Because for all the talk about improving our Nation's schools, when it comes to concrete action, real reforms that will force bad schools to improve or shut down, there is no action.

It is a case once again, as they say in Texas, of "big hat, no cattle." Take for example A+ Accounts. A+ Accounts are education savings accounts which let parents save in a tax-free account so that they can send their kids to a better school if the public schools in their neighborhood are bad.

But the President and his special interest allies oppose the idea of A+ Accounts. They would rather force kids to stay in crummy schools than to take on the special interests that are incapable of reforming bad schools. But, of course, this will not stop them from talking about education reform and reforming bad schools. "Big hat, no cattle."

#### UNITE BEHIND PUBLIC EDUCATION, REJECT PRIVATE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, well, as we know in Texas, you do not help our public schools by siphoning off the money and giving it to private elite academies, and that is what this so-called Private School Expense Act that we are about to debate is all about.

It is at the expense of public education that we help the private elite academies that serve a small percentage of the wealthiest among us. I think it is wrong. I represent communities in the capital of Texas, the central Texas area, that will next month receive more blue ribbon school awards for quality public education than any other area our size.

Our business community supports our public schools through a massive adopt-a-school program of time and resources. But today's Private School Expense Act goes in just the opposite direction. If we want to support those efforts, those local community efforts for strong public schools, we do not take Federal resources and divert them and provide an incentive for the wealthy to leave public education.

Let us unite behind public education and reject this private incentive program.

#### FIND A WAY TO PRESERVE THE HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

(Mr. WALSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALSH. Madam Speaker, not very far from the Capitol in Southeast Washington sits the historic Congressional Cemetery. The name is some-

what misleading, since the cemetery itself is not affiliated with the U.S. Congress. However, there are over 60,000 interments there, including America's "March King," John Philip Sousa; former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover; Native Americans; military leaders; and over 50 former Members of Congress.

Over the years, the cemetery has fallen into disrepair. It was in need of a thorough cleanup, and under the leadership of our own Jim Oliver from the Cloakroom, who also heads the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery, the project was undertaken last month.

It would be impossible to name the hundreds of volunteers, but special praise goes to Air Force M. Sgt. Thomas Williams and Sgt. Dave Lutzow, both stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, who saw a program on the History Channel listing the cemetery as an endangered national treasure. Also, our former colleague, Bill Carney of New York, deserves great praise.

It was a terrific effort but more needs to be done. We have to find a way to provide for permanent care and maintenance of this treasure. It is truly historic and of national significance.

#### THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, yesterday the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues held a very successful title IX hearing. This is the 25th anniversary of title IX and it has afforded the opportunity for hundreds of thousands of young women and others to attend higher education. Title IX was signed into law by President Nixon and enacted on June 23, 1972.

I am happy to also announce that today I will introduce legislation for a Congressional Gold Medal for Ms. Wilma Rudolph, a pioneer. The legislation is sponsored by original sponsors, nearly 40 of them here in this House of Representatives. It just so happens that June 23, the day the bill was enacted, is Ms. Wilma Rudolph's anniversary of her birthday, and we honor title IX.

Twenty-five years. We have come a long way, and we have a long way to go into the new millennium. It is our hope the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues will put this issue before the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

#### TAX REFORM

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, according to the Cato Institute about one-half of the 10 million correction notices